Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07680 160822Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 VO-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /044 W
----------094033 160826Z /10
P 160734Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 922
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIROITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7680

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: UNHCR REP SAMPATKUMAR VISIT TO HONG KONG

1. SAMPATKUMAR VISITED CONGEN JUNE 16 AND DISCUSSED RESULTS HIS VISIT HERE. HE PLANS LEAVE HONG KONG LATER SAME DAY.

2. HE LOCATED ADDITIONAL THREE FACILITIES FOR BOAT REFUGEES, WHICH TOGETHER WTIH PREVIOUS FACILITIIES, HAVE TOTAL ACCOMMODATION CAPCAITY FOR 1192 PERSONS. THERE ARE 816 BOAT REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN THESE HOTELS/HOSTELS (ALL HAVE BEEN LANDED), WHICH MEANS FACILITIES CAN ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL 400 FUTURE ARRIVALS. IN ADDITION, HE REPORTED THAT LOCAL VOLAG HONG KONG CHRISTIAN COUNCIL UPON REQUEST WILL BE ABLE ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST 300 MORE PERSONS IN NEW TERRITORIES.

3. SAMPATKUMAR DELIVERED WRITTEN PROPOSAL ON JUNE 15 TO DIRECTOR OF MACAU OFFICES OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) FOR PRESENTATION TO MACAU AUTHORITIES. HE SAID HE WILL WAIT FOR REPLY AND WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER UNTIL IT IS RESOLVED ONE WAY OR OTHER.
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PAGE 02 HONG K 07680 160822Z

4. HONG KONG GOVT HAS GIVEN UNHCR OFFICE SPACE IN HARBOR CONTROLL BUILDING AND SAMPATKUMAR HAS ARRANGED WITH LOCAL PERSON TO START WORK EARLY NEXT WEEK. CARPENTER FROM UNHCR KUALA LUMPUR WILL COME TO HONG KONG TOWARDS END NEXT WEEK AND WILL REMAIN HERE AT LEAST ONE MONTH. HE WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING NEW BOAT

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ARRIVALS, COMPLETING UNHCR FORMS AND PASSING THOSE
FORMS TO APPROPRIATE CONSULATES/COMMISSIONS IN HONG
KONG. SAMPATKUMAR SAID ONE OF CARPENTER'S MAIN
GOALS WILL BE TO TRY TO INTERNATIONALIZE PROGRAM HERE.

6. HE ALSO MET WITH ALL FOUR LOCAL VOLAGS (THIS WAS FIRST
UNHCR MEETING EVER WITH ALL FOUR) TO DISUCSS ASSISTANCE
TO BOAT REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY MEDICAL ATTENTION.
AN ARRANGEMENT WAS REACHED AND TWO VOLAGS WILL PROVIDE
MEDICAL SERVICES AS NEEDED ON REGULAR BASIS.

6 SAMPATKUMAR INDICATED HE WAS AWARE OF TRNASIT CAMP
IDEA FOR PHILIPPINES OR MACAU. HIS PERSONAL BELIEF
WAS THAT PHILIPPINES WOULD NOT WANT SUCH A CAMP AND
THAT BEST POSSIBILITY IN AREA WAS MACAU. HE ALSO
SAID THERR IS POSSIBILITY OF SENDING SOME REFUGEES TO
KOREA IN TRANSIT. HE NOTED THAT KOREA HAS BUILT
AN EXCELLENT FACILITY WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE 300
REFUGEES. HOWEVER, HE WANTS TO WAIT ON THIS IDEA
UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKED OUT WITH GOVT OF KOREA
FOR RESETTLEMENT OF SOME VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WHICH HE
DISCUSSED DURING VISIT THERE LAST WEEK. HIS IDEA
WOULD BE TO SEND UP TO 300 REFUGEES TO KOREA, SOME OF
WHOM COULD BE RESETTLED IN KOREA AND MAJORITY WOULD
BE IN TRANSIT FOR U.S. AND /OR CANADA. SAMPATKUMAR
THEN ASKED IF THE 47 REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN KOREA
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PAGE 03 HONG K 07680 160822Z

COULD BE INTERVIEWED BY INS AND, IF ELEIGIBLE, MOVED
ON TO U.S. TO INDICATE TO GOVT OF KOREA THAT REFUGEES
PRESENTLY IN KOREA CAN BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE. WE
TOLD HIM THAT IF TRANSIT ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED
OUT, WE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF ASSIGNING NUMBERS
UNDER NEW PROGRAM TO THESE 47 REFUGEES AFTER IMPLEMENT-
ING CABLE IS RECEIVED, BUT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH
HE SHOULD DISCUSS WITH LOWMAN DURING KUALA LUMPUR
VISIT.
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